

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RADIO/TV COVERAGE OF KOREA AUG 22

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF US RADIO/TV COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN KOREA, OVER WEEKEND, BASED ON S/PRS DAILY MEMO TO SECY.

2. SCHIEFFER/PIERPOINT (CBS-TV EVE NEWS 8/22) NOTED US/NK FORCES REMAIN ON ALERT, CONTINUE TRADING VERBAL BARRAGES OVER KILLINGS AT JSA. SAID NK CHARGED FORD MOVED SITUATION "CLOSER TO BRINK OF WAR." PIERPOINT, IN VAIL, CITED NESSEN STATEMENT EARLIER SUN THAT NK ISSUED WHAT HE CALLED EXPRESSION OF REGRET; DECLINED CALL MESSAGE APOLOGY. SAID DOS VERIFIED MESSAGE RECEIVED, WHICH MERELY REGRETTED INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. NOTED DOS SPOKESMAN SAID MESSAGE NOT "ACCEPTABLE" BECAUSE TOOK NO BLAME FOR INCIDENT; WAS DELIVERED 4 HRS AFTER UNC FORCES CUT DOWN TREE. EARLIER, NESSEN SAID PRES HAD RECEIVED NK STATEMENT BEFORE ORDERED TREE CUTTING SHOW OF FORCE, BUT BOTH DOS, WH'S CARLSON LATER MADE CLEAR NK MESSAGE DID NOT COME UNTIL SAT.

3. DEAN/SHAW (CBS TV NEWS 11:30 PM 8/22) REHASHED ABOVE.

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SAID US OFFICIALS STILL PUZZLED AT NK MOTIVES. NOTED HAK

HAS NOT CHANGED POSITION THAT NK MUST EXPLAIN/MAKE REPARATIONS.

4. MARVIN KALB (CBS-TV EVE NEWS AUG 20) NOTED KOREA TASK FORCE SET UP AT DOS TO MONITOR CRISIS DEVELOPMENT. NOTED HAK CALL FRI FOR "REPARATIONS" MYSTIFIED WASHINGTON SINCE NO ONE EXPECTS NK ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY, OR PAY COMPENSATION. SAID US OPTIONS "EXTREMELY LIMITED," US NOT "SPOILING FOR A FIGHT," AND NK MAY ONLY SEEK BUILD TENSION AS PRELUDE ANNUAL UNGA DEMAND FOR US PULLOUT. RECALLED US SWALLOWED PRIDE AFTER PUEBLO SEIZED, EC-120 SHOT DOWN. IN BOTH CASES MADE STRONG PROTEST, BUT TOOK NO COUNTERACTION.

5. KALB (CBS RADIO 1ST LINE REPORT 8/21) SAID KOREA HAS BECOME CLEAR CAMPAIGN ISSUE. REVIEWED WAR, TRUCE, DIVISIONS BETWEEN HOSTILE REGIMES, TREE-TRIMMING MURDERS. SAID US OFFICIALS DO NOT CONSIDER INCIDENT FULL BLOWN CRISIS, YET, BUT PUZZLED AT NK MOTIVES. WITH GOP CONVENTION OVER, NOTED PRES CAN HANDLE WITHOUT LOOKING OVER SHOULDER AT REAGAN. REVIEWED CARTER CALL FOR PHASE-OUT US FORCES. ADDED SOME EXPERTS SEEKING KEY TO NK MOTIVE IN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, SEVERE ECON DIFFICULTIES, POL CRISIS ROOTED IN KIM IL SUNG DESIGN INSTALL 35-YR OLD SON AS SUCCESSOR. KISSINGER

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